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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rickhard NELGER et al.  
Application No.: 09/893,523  
Filing Date: June 29, 2001  
Title: CONDITIONAL ACCESS SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 10, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A conditional access system, in which entitlement control messages (ECMs) containing encryption keys used to encrypt a program transmission, are sent to a set-top box over a secure communications channel separate from the channel used for transmission of the encrypted program.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and abstract by the current